

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 LAB-04 TRSE-00 AGR-05 COME-00

STR-04 INT-05 SS-15 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 022205Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1621

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON GSP

REF: STATE 219436, SAN JOSE 4051

1. EMBOFFS MET OCTOBER 2 WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTEGRATION AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, ODALIER VILLALOBOS, AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS GSP LIST (PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED) ANNOTATED TO SHOW PRODUCTS THAT WERE OPPOSED AT PUBLIC HEARINGS IN U.S. VILLALOBOS' OFFICE IS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THIS MATTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE ORIGINAL COSTA RICAN REQUEST LIST WAS SUBMITTED THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICAN SECRETARIAT. (SIECA)

2. MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT DISMAYED THAT THEIR REQUEST LIST HAS SHRUNKEN SO FAR FROM ITS ORIGINAL SIZE AND THAT NOW YET ANOTHER GROUP OF DELETIONS IS POSSIBLE. THEY SAID THAT FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THEM SOME ITEMS ON THE ORIGINAL COSTA RICAN LIST SUBMITTED TO THE USG. OF THE 244 ITEMS OF INTEREST TO COSTA
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RICA WHICH WERE SUBMITTED BY SIECA, 76 WERE DELETED BY THE

U.S. BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE GSP TENTATIVE LIST.
NOW ANOTHER 69 UNCHALLENGED ITEMS.

3. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED THAT THE ITEMS OPPOSED AT PUBLIC
HEARINGS IN THE U.S. WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE DELETED,
AND THAT THIS WILL BE A MATTER FOR DECISION BY THE
PRESIDENT AFTER COSTA RICA AND OTHER INTERESTED
COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AGAIN.

4. AS FOR THE MEANS OF CONSULTATION, VILLALOBOS
THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE BOTH MULTI-LATERAL
AND BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. VILLALOBOS SEEMED TO BELIEVE
THAT MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL IN
ORDER TO AVOID CREATING AN IMPRESSION THAT COSTA RICA
WAS BACKING AWAY FROM DECISIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN WITHIN
LATIN AMERICA TO CONSULT JOINTLY WITH THE U.S. ON THIS
AND OTHER ISSUES, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD
PREVENT COSTA RICA FROM ALSO CONSULTING BILATERALLY. HE
PROMISED THAT THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH
WITH THE EMBASSY IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SET UP CONSULTATIONS.
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